

Immunization Registry Progress in Kansas

Immunization Coverage in Kansas

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 83%.

Facts about the Kansas Immunization Information System (KIIS)

- KIIS plans to collect and manage immunization data for the entire state of Kansas. The target age for KIIS is children from birth through 5-year of age; however, it will accept and track data for patients of all ages.
- Currently, entities which link with the registry include:
 - Vital Records Department;
 - Community/Migrant Health Centers (applicant); and
 - Other Registries (as of April 30, 1999).
- As of June 21, 1999:
 - 25% of children less than 6 years old were enrolled in the registry; and
 - 8% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

Other unique qualities about KIIS

- KIIS was developed in close collaboration with local health departments.
- There has been a link to Vital Records to populate the registry with birth data since the end of 1994.
- There are ongoing monthly training seminars in Topeka open to all providers at no cost to the participants.
- The Health Level 7 (HL7) interface is complete and ready to link to other inter- and intra-state systems.
- There is extensive output, including structured and ad hoc reports.

Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress

- KIIS progress has been on hold since March 1998 while the Kansas Department of Health and Environment focuses on assuring all of its other health and environmental program software is Y2K compliant. The Health Department feels that KIIS funding, motivation, staffing, and provider interest may be jeopardized until progress can be resumed in 2000.
- Written applications for participation have been collected since 1996. Currently, there are 21 active sites and 60 provider applicants are waiting to enroll in the registry. The Health Department feels that this wait to enroll in the registry may be problematic.
- Most of the applicants are health departments currently using simple tracking software that is not Y2K compliant.
- Funding issues are a concern for the sustainability of KIIS.

Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Kansas

KIIS Contact Person:

Name: Marta Skalacki
Title: KIIS Project Manager
Address: Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Immunization Program
109 SW 9th
Topeka, KS, 66612
Phone: (785) 296-0687
Fax: (785) 296-6510
Email: mskalack@kdhe.state.ks.us

Suggestions for Mrs. Graves' involvement and support

- Provide public statements of support for KIIS.
- Enroll your own toddler in KIIS through establishment of your own pediatrician as a KIIS participant.
- Meet with state immunization registry staff for details.
- Meet with the registry workgroup of the immunization action coalition.